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Athenæum, Oct. 3, 1868, as conjectured proof.

With the exception of a table giving the mere sources of the *Canterbury Tales*, nothing is said regarding Chaucer's relation to his originals. It is not easy to form a just estimate of the poet's artistic skill in story-telling without considering the crude narratives which go to form the subject-matter of his tales. Chaucer's material goes through such a transformation in his hands as distinguishes him from the mere literary artisan, Gower, and to neglect such an important feature of criticism as the relation to originals is to leave the reader without one of the surest evidences of the poet's genius.

Enough has been said from these few sections of the *History* to indicate its shortcomings. The merits of the book are its unfailing interest, its attractive style, and the admirable scheme on which it is planned. The necessity of regarding literary history as we have come to regard national history cannot be too strongly emphasized. Professor Courthope's work is an attempt to look at our literature from this point of view, and, in so far as he has not allowed himself to be careless of details, he has given us a history of English poetry which will be helpful and suggestive in the study of our literature. In the succeeding volumes we shall doubtless have a result that will do more justice to the subjects considered, and that will reveal our author on ground with which he has already shown himself thoroughly familiar.

JAS. W. TUPPER.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLISH BALLADS.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—There are not a few passages in English ballads which have never been satisfactorily explained. Light upon those which here follow would be gratefully received, including conjectural emendations when these seem to be required.

ARCHERY.—*frese* your bowes of ewe.—Stanza 215 of A Gest of Robyn Hode. (Later copies, bend we.)

a *bearing* arrow.—Adam Bell, st. 150, and elsewhere.

Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne shoot at a wand (pricke-wand). What is meant then by Guy's shooting "within the garland," in st. 31? We have a rose-garland again in the Gest of R. H., 7th Fit, where there is shooting at yerds or wands, stanzas 397, 398. Here we may conceive that a garland was hung upon the yerd; but in the other case the two men meet in a wood, and a rose-garland could not easily be extemporised (though a rod might be bent into a circlet and attached to the wand).

With that ther cam an arrowe hastily, forthe off a myghttē *wane*.—Hunting of the Cheviot, Ashmole MS., st. 36. (The gloss, "a single arrow out of a vast quantity" (*wone*) seems to me prosaic and not in the style of the ballad. Is there any case of *wane*, *wain*, used as the vehicle of a shaft?)

Loxly puld forth a broad arowe, he shott it *under hand*.—Robin Hood and Q. Katherine, Percy MS., st. 29.

R. H. Garland of 1663, st. 26. Then did the king's archer his arrows command, but Robin shot *under his hand*, and hit the mark. (R. Hood and Q. K. again.)

MARINE.—(Sir Andrew Barton). He clasped me to his *archborde*.—Percy MS., st. 23.

Either in *archbord* (MS. charkebord) or in *hall*, st. 29. (Perhaps hatch-bord, as in st. 36, st. 70.) What is *hatch-bord*?

Sir A. Barton, York copy, Surtees Society, vol. lxxxv, p. 64, st. 30: Ethere *bye lerbord* or *by lowe*, that Scotte would overcome yowe.

Roxburgh copy, st. 34. Thus bravely did Lord Howard pass, and did *on anchor rise so high* (while sailing).

York copy, st. 59. Horsley with a broode-arrow-head tooke hime in at the buttuke of *the utuer beame*.

And he schet not to hye;
þrow the *sanchoþis* of his bryk;
It towchyd neyþer thye.

Robyn and Gandeleyne.

Here be the best *coresed* hors that ever yet sawe I.—Gest of R. H., st. 100. (Later copies: corese, corse.) Bodied?

How much is in yonder other *corser*?—Gest, st. 256. Later copies: What is on the

other courser? in the other coffer? Qy. for-
cer?

"Pottys," he gan crye, "haffe hansel for
the mare."—R. Hood and the Potter, st. 32.

That fend I Godys forbod.—R. H. and the
Potter, st. 72. (Qy. That fend I, Godys for-
bode!)

When shawes beene sheene and *shradds*
full fayre.—R. H. and Guy of Gisborne, st. 1.

Litul John stode at a wyndow and lokid
forth *at a stage*.—R. H. and the Monk, st. 39.

With fryars and monks, with their fine
sprunks.—King's Disguise and Friendship
with R. H., st. 12.

This was the hontynge off the Cheviat, that
tear begane this spurn: Hunting of the Cheviot,
Ashmole MS., st. 65. ("That tear or pull
brought about this kick" seems to me quite
improbable. I take *that tear* to be that there
=there, a superfluous that being common.)

I'le haue that traitor's head of thine, to
enter plea att my iollye.—Hugh Spencer,
Percy MS., st. 32. (A most difficult place;
iollye should perhaps be *iollytē*.)

This roasted cock shall crow full *fences*
three, st. 10; And then three *fences* crowed he,
st. 11.—Carol of the Carnal and the Crane.

When that he came to Iohn of the Scales,
Vpp at the *speere* he looked then.

The Heir of Linne, Percy MS., 20.

F. J. CHILD.

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"Under hand." Ascham's *Toxophilus* helps
to explain this. We read: "Men doubt yet,
in looking at the mark, what way is best . . .
above or beneth hys hand." And among the
things which hinder good shooting: "a byg
brested shafte for hym that shoteth *under*
hande, bycause it wyll hobble." As he is
here speaking only of taking aim, under-hand
shooting would seem to be done when the
archer raised his bow high, and looked at the
mark under the arrow-hand.

"Bye lerbord or by lowe." Lowe I take to
be a form of *luff*, the weather-side. "With
steirburd, baburd, luf and lie" (*The Fleming*
Barge). Lowe (pron. *loo*) would be formed
from *luff* by the usual elision, as *lude* from
luffit.

"A stage" is a storey. He looked forth

from an upper storey.

"*That tear*" is, no doubt, "that there," as
Prof. Child suggests; but the "that" does
not seem to me superfluous.

W. HAND BROWNE.

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MOD. LANG. ASSOCIATION OF GER- MANY.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES,

SIRS:—The Modern Language Association
of Germany will hold its next biennial meet-
ing at Hamburg on May 26, 27, and 28 of this
year. There will be, on this occasion, an
exhibition of books and materials of every
kind pertaining to the instruction of English
(language, literature and, above all, *realien*).
The Hamburg section of the M. L. A. of G.
(Verein für das Studium der neueren Sprachen
in Hamburg-Altona) has been making pre-
parations for this exhibition for a long time,
and has been granted a subsidy by the govern-
ment to enable it to carry on its work success-
fully, and to make the valuable collection of
material as complete as possible.

From a circular which I received some
weeks ago from Professor Wendt, the presi-
dent of the association, I beg to quote the
following passages, which will sufficiently ex-
plain the aim and purport of the undertaking:

. . . Es handelt sich in der Hauptsache um
die Ausstellung solcher Werke und Schriften,
die dem Lehrer die Kenntniss der englischen
Realien zu vermitteln geeignet sind: daran
sollen sich noch Wörterbücher und Anschau-
ungs—Unterrichtsmittel schliessen.

Wir haben im folgenden einen vorläufigen,
im Einzelnen noch wenig geordneten Katalog
aufgestellt, und an eine grössere Zahl von
Fachmännern gesandt, um uns deren Unter-
stützung rechtzeitig zu sichern. Unter Be-
rücksichtigung der uns in hoffentlich recht
ausgedehnter Masse zugehender Mitteilungen
werden wir in den Osterferien die Auswahl
des englischen Materials in London selbst
vornehmen und gleich nach Ostern an die
Aufstellung des endgültigen Kataloges gehen,
der auch für die Nichtbesucher der Ausstel-
lung von Wert sein dürfte.

Wir bitten Sie freundlichst, das Verzeichnis
prüfen und. . . . Ihrer Ansicht nach Feh-
lendes dem Unterzeichneten mitteilen zu wol-
len.

Bei einigen der kostspieligen Werke, deren